



Request for Condemnation of Calls for Nuclear Strike on Azerbaijan

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To: Tavlarides, Mark

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 Russian MP calls for nuclear strikes against Azerbaijan.pdf  
75 KB

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Wed 3/30/2022 12:40 PM

Good afternoon,

BGR represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. As members of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I am writing to alert you to unacceptable threats coming from members of the Russian Duma against the government and the people of Azerbaijan. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Mikhail Delyagin – who the U.S. rightly sanctioned last week – openly called for nuclear strikes against Azerbaijan, due to Baku's support for Ukraine as the Russian invasion progresses.

Appearing on Russian state TV, Rossiya 1, Delyagin advocated for strikes against Azerbaijan's oil industry over Azerbaijan's principled stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine – and if this action was not egregious enough, later that day continued to call for nuclear strikes on the Telegram app, advocating for his followers to express their support for using nuclear weapons to retaliate against a country for simply distributing humanitarian aid.

Delyagin, who's comments were so extreme the Kremlin had to walk them back, later tried to clarify his remarks by saying he was not openly calling for nuking the people of Azerbaijan, instead, he was advocating a nuclear strike "only to some part of the Azerbaijani bureaucracy" – as if radioactive fallout makes distinctions based on civilians' sources of employment.

Given the egregious nature of Delyagin's remarks and the position of prominence he holds in the Russian Duma, Azerbaijan has rightfully issued an arrest warrant through INTERPOL. However, INTERPOL is only as strong as its member countries, so **we ask that your boss release a public statement or Tweet condemning these calls for nuclear war and recognizing the risks Azerbaijan faces while steadfastly supporting Ukraine.**

For more information on Delyagin's unacceptable calls for violence and the Azerbaijani response, please see that attached PDF from the Embassy of Azerbaijan. Please let me know if you have any questions, or would like to further engage with the Embassy as it marshals aid Ukraine.

All my best,

Mark

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*Note: BGR Government Affairs, LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.*

### **Russian MP calls for nuclear strikes against Azerbaijan**

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Mikhail Delyagin, in one of the programs of the Russian federal government official TV channel Rossiya 1, suggested inflicting nuclear strikes on the oil industry of Azerbaijan.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, later he published a poll in which he asks whether Russia should use tactical nuclear weapons against the oil industry of Azerbaijan because of its support for Ukraine.<sup>2</sup>

Notwithstanding the recommendation of Kremlin not to undermine relations with Azerbaijan, Mikhail Delyagin claimed that he has apologized for his words and actions, however he still continued to threaten Azerbaijan stating that *“my statement and the survey conducted in the Telegram channel were addressed not to the Azerbaijani people and the state as a whole, but only to some part of the Azerbaijani bureaucracy, which, perhaps, decided that in the situation of diverting Russian forces for a military special operation, its peacekeepers can be neglected.”* He also noted that *“of course, in order to be heard, exaggerations had to be voiced – and I offer my most sincere apologies to people of all nationalities (not only Azerbaijanis) who felt frightened, offended and confused, or who experienced other negative emotions because of my words. (Of course, this does not apply to those who did not understand my words due to the fact that they only use obscene swear words in Russian).”*<sup>3</sup>

The Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan opened a criminal case against Mikhail Delyagin under the Article 101.2 (open calls through the media and by an official to wage an aggressive war), 214.2.3 (threat with committing an act of terrorism with the use of firearms and objects used as weapons), 283.2.1 and 283.2.2 (incitement to national hatred by threatening to use force and using one's official position) of the Criminal Code. Mikhail Delyagin through the INTERPOL channels were put on the international wanted list with arrest imposed as a measure of restraint against him. At the same time, requests were addressed to the relevant competent authorities of a number of partner states to ensure the immediate detention of the accused upon his entry into the territory of these countries and his extradition to the Republic of Azerbaijan for bringing to justice.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For the video footage please see: [https://twitter.com/ayaz\\_rza/status/1508765104556462089?s=21&t=cYZhM-8lrspWBbFIdXZ8fw](https://twitter.com/ayaz_rza/status/1508765104556462089?s=21&t=cYZhM-8lrspWBbFIdXZ8fw)

<sup>2</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1508730654149812225?s=21&t=umrzWo-6ygXJ2DvHhN\\_n8Q](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1508730654149812225?s=21&t=umrzWo-6ygXJ2DvHhN_n8Q)

<sup>3</sup> <https://jam-news.net/russian-mp-threatened-azerbaijan-with-a-nuclear-strike-the-kremlin-had-to-intervene/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/4987>